

# CLIO'S COLUMN: ESSAYS ON THE HISTORY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES, LIBRARIANS, AND PRINT CULTURE

## Introduction

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The concept for this column began in 2010 with the work of an advocacy committee formed at the suggestion of Lucretia W. McClure, AHIP, FMLA, and supported by the History of the Health Sciences Section of MLA. The fruits of those labors were published in Flannery's comment and opinion piece, "Advocating for History and the Health Sciences Libraries and Librarians: A Position Paper by the History of the Health Sciences Section, Medical Library Association" [1]. A symposium issue on history followed in the *Journal of the Medical Library Association (JMLA)* in January 2011.

This column's purpose is to add permanency to those efforts by providing a regular means of highlighting aspects of our professional and institutional past. The current committee members (Lucretia McClure [chair], librarian emerita, Edward G. Miner Library, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY; Donna Lee Hirst, Hardin Library for the Health Sciences, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA; and myself) decided that the general guidelines for this column should be:

1. The column will contain regular, brief articles with a historical focus addressing matters of general interest to health sciences libraries.

Topics should be relevant to a wide readership in both library and medical communities.

2. The column should not focus on news such as new research tools or new collections.
3. Bibliographies, book reviews, commentaries, editorials, and "remember when" pieces should not be submitted.
4. Examples of topics might include the history of informed consent, the meaning of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to libraries, the closing of hospital libraries, reviews of the history of medicine libraries, and historic changes in the profession (including library education).

As such, the column seeks to cast a wide net and publish a wide range of topics including articles related to collections, people, processes, achievements, challenges, and other items of general interest to medical librarians. In this manner, "Clio's Column" will allow a regular highlighting of short, focused essays on subjects from the past that intersect with topics of interest to current librarians.

I must thank my fellow committee members for their many helpful suggestions and indefatigable efforts along the way. Also, the entire committee thanks *JMLA* Editor

Susan S. Starr for her consistent encouragement and support. We hope you enjoy reading these offerings to the muse of history in "Clio's Column." Submissions meeting the above criteria are enthusiastically encouraged. Please send them to: Michael A. Flannery, MA, MLS, Flannery@uab.edu, Associate Director for Historical Collections, Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1720 Second Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35294.

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## Reference

1. Advocacy Committee, History of the Health Sciences Section, Medical Library Association; Flannery MA, Holtum E, Porter S, McClure LW. Advocating for history and the health sciences libraries and librarians: a position paper by the History of the Health Sciences Section, Medical Library Association [comment and opinion]. *J Med Lib Assoc.* 2010 Jan;98(1):9-11. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3163/1536-5050.98.1.006>.